Fire Budget and Allocation System
CHARTER

1. Identification:

A. Project Name: Fire Budget and Allocation System

B. System Owner: Roger Erb, Chief, Fire Management Branch, Division of Refuges

C. System Manager: Andrea Olson, Computer Specialist

D. Working Team:

- Andrea Olson, R-9 Fire Management Computer Specialist
- Chris Garvin, R-9 Fire Management Computer Specialist
- Roger Spaulding, R-9 Fire Management Budget Specialist
- Allen Carter, R-5 Regional Fire Management Coordinator
- Mike Phillips, R-2 Regional Fire Management Coordinator
- Brian McManus, R-6 Zone Fire Management Officer

E. User Acceptance Team: Regional Fire Management Coordinators

2. Description of Proposed Project:

A. Objectives of the Project:

The objective is to redevelop the Fire Budget Allocation System (FIREPRO) from the ground up into a client-server environment accessible by a web browser. The new system will be user friendly, with graphical interface. Maintenance costs will be reduced and future upgrades will be readily accomplished. User satisfaction will be enhanced at all levels. Data will be more easily accessible, providing useful information to all levels within the Service. Outputs will be based on objective data elements and their relationship to Service programs.

B. Name Change

The name for the current system is FIREPRO. The name for the new system will be Fire Budget and Allocation System or FireBase, for short. A name change is made to remind users of the redesigned system structure and operation and reduce confusion with the old system.

C. Reason for Request:

The current system (FIREPRO) is written in COBOL, an obsolete language, and maintained by contract service. The data are in flat files, which restrict ad hoc reports, and the cost to have a new report format written is prohibitive. The system resides on a mini-computer with a very high yearly maintenance cost and proprietary operating system. No system documentation exists. The system evolved over several years, with programming accomplished by multiple individuals. Consequently, minor changes in fields or output structure can cause widespread, unforeseen operating problems.

Currently, all data entry is completed on line. Many remote field stations experience difficulty maintaining a phone connection long enough to complete entries and updates. The user interface is text only, not mouse driven. We need to advance and take advantage of new technology, hardware and software.

D. Brief Functional Description:

The following statements describe functional requirements for the new FireBase system:

(1) Implement electronic data transfer processes by Regions and the Washington Office utilizing existing LAN/WANs and TCP/IP vehicles.
(2) Utilize client server technology in a networked (multi-user) environment.
(3) Query capability.
(4) User-friendly interface accessed by an Internet browser.
(5) Documented user and technical systems manuals.
(6) Final product to be maintained by one operator.

E. Organizations Affected:

The following organizations use the FireBase system or data:

(1) All National Wildlife Refuges.
(2) All Regional Office Fire Management staffs.
(3) All Assistant Regional Directors for Refuges & Wildlife.
(4) Division of Refuges, Fire Management Branch.
(5) Division of Budget.

F. Relationship to Other Projects, Systems:

The Fire Budget System will get data from the following systems:

(1) Fire Occurrence: number of fires, acres burned, fuel type, fire date, cause, fire costs, fire resources utilized.
(2) WIMS: weather information
(3) FTS: weather information

The system will interface with the SWAN.

G. Privacy/Security Considerations:

The data contained in this system has no value relative to national security, nor does it contain information under the purview of the Privacy Act.

Access will be controlled by user identification and passwords. System administrator will require the ability to lock access to areas of the system to other level users for system and data integrity.

H. Estimate of Available Resources and Time:

Staff time for development will include up to 1 FTE at GS-12, 1 FTE at GS-13, .5 FTE at GS-11/12 and $100,000 for travel, training and software procurement. Annual maintenance costs should be 1 FTE at GS-13, .01 FTE at GS-13 and less than $25,000 for hardware/software maintenance and upgrades.

I. Known Constraints:

(1) IBM-PC or 100% compatible personal computer.
(2) Internet access.
(3) Internet browser which can read forms (Netscape V.2.+, Microsoft Explorer V.2.+)
(4) Software host platform will be restricted to a PC based Relational Database Management System environment.

J. Deliverables:

(1) Process Model
(2) Data Flow Model
(3) Entity Relationship Diagrams
(4) System Architecture
(5) Logical & Physical Schema

(6) Database & File Design
(7) System Software
(8) Implementation Plan
    (a) Test Plan
    (b) Training Plan
    (c) Delivery Schedule
(9) User's Guide
(10) Maintenance/Support Plan
    (a) User Support Plan
    (b) Change-Management Process